

February 3, 2016



Donna Schreiner (Chair)



Seat Reserved for Deaf or Hard of Hearing Member

A second generation deaf, Donna Schreiner has been a Teacher Assistant for the Special School District of St. Louis County (SSD) since 2003. She has extensive experience in the education sector working with DHH students utilizing the various modes of communication. She is a strong advocate for the deaf, has dealt with DHH issues and barriers all her life and overcame them, personally and professionally. She holds a Bachelor's in Biology from George Mason University. She is a proud mother of three deaf daughters who all have received college degrees. Her passions outside of work include exercising, reading, interior designing, and spending time with her family and friends.

Mary Hale (Vice-Chair)

Seat Reserved for Deaf or Hard of Hearing Member

Mary Hale moved to St. Louis from Columbus, Ohio in July 2008. She was born in raised in the Chicago area, where she lived until 2000. She has been married for 41 years and has two children. She worked full time for almost 25 years with AT&T.

Mary Hale has Usher Syndrome type 2; she was born hard of hearing, presently has a cochlear implant in one ear and severe loss in other with a hearing aid. She began losing her vision in late teens due to "RP" and has been legally blind for over 25 years.

She is currently a member of American Association of the Deaf-Blind and a member of the Ohio Association of the Deaf-Blind. She is the founder and President of Sight and Sound Impaired of St. Louis, which she started in 2008. She co-coordinated an SSP Workshop for the Deaf-Blind in St. Louis in 2009. She is also the founder and coordinator of the GAB (Games Accessible for Blindness) at the Society for the Blind.

She has also been a member of the HLAA-GSL (Hearing Loss Association of America - Greater St. Louis Chapter) and MCB (Missouri Council for the Blind) since 2008. She has been a member of the American Association of the Deaf-Blind since 2003. Mary has been featured in many different newsletters from HLAA-GSL to the Helen Keller National Center Newsletter. To this day, she travels all over the state of Missouri to educate the people about Deaf-Blindness.



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Owen Vandavelde

Seat Reserved for Parent of a Deaf or Hard of Hearing Child



Owen Vandavelde is a product development engineer at AccelerOptics, a division of H.E. Williams, where he specializes in developing solid state lighting devices. During his career he has worked with companies such as Hasbro, Honda, Nissan, and Harley-Davidson Motor Company helping them bring their new product concepts into production. He has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Case Western Reserve University and is a graduate of the University of Missouri, Kansas City's Executive MBA program. He has been hearing impaired his entire life. Vandavelde found his way to advocacy shortly after his daughter's birth when she was flagged with a hearing impairment during her newborn hearing screening. His goal is that all sensory challenged children in Missouri have access to the best suitable solutions necessary to help them maximize their learning and development potential. He currently resides in Kansas City, MO with his wife Catherine, and young daughter, Lucinda.

Wendy Jensen

Seat Reserved for Local Public School Administrator

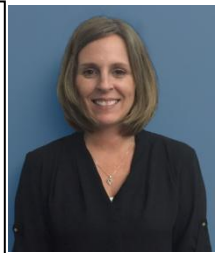


Since 2007, Wendy Jensen has been an administrator with the Countywide Program for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing at Special School District in St. Louis County. During that time, she had the privilege of attending the mentor training offered through CAEBER's ASL/English Bilingual Professional Development Program at Gallaudet University. Prior to joining SSD, Wendy served as the statewide Deaf Education Consultant and later as the Director of Student and Outreach Services at the Missouri School for the Deaf. She began her career as a teacher of the Deaf in Jefferson County and has worked as an interpreter in various settings. Wendy holds an Ed.S in Educational Administration and a Master's in Communications from Lindenwood University, as well as an AAS in Interpreting from St. Louis Community College and a Bachelor's in Deaf Education from Northern Illinois University.

Shelly Jones

Seat Reserved for Representative for Interpreters

Shelly Jones is an interpreter for the Deaf, both in private practice and for Sorenson Communications in St. Louis. She previously served as an interpreter for the deaf for the Special School District in St. Louis and for John A. Logan College and Southern Illinois University. She is certified as a master interpreter in both Missouri and Illinois, and obtained her bachelor's degree in English to ASL from William Woods University in Fulton.



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Ernest E. Garrett III



Seat Reserved for DESE or MO School for Deaf

Ernest Garrett is the current superintendent for the Missouri School for the Deaf in Fulton, and is the first Deaf superintendent of the school. He previously served as executive director of the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He is a licensed clinical social worker who served as president and chairman of the board of National Black Deaf Advocates Inc. and was that organization's Advocate of the Year in 2009. Garrett obtained a master's degree in social work and a master's in administration from Gallaudet University.

Paul Blicharz

Seat Reserved for Deaf or Hard of Hearing Organizations

Paul Blicharz was born Deaf in Stockton, CA in 1949. He attended California School for the Deaf in Berkeley (later moved to Freemont, CA) in 1955 and graduated in 1968. After graduating from high school, he attended Gallaudet College (later was named Gallaudet University) in Washington, DC and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 1974.

He married his late wife, Linda C. D'Antoni in 1977 and raised two children: William and Brenda. The family moved from Maryland to St. Louis, MO in 1986. He was appointed as a Commissioner of MCDHH by Gov. Bob Holden on March 22, 2002.

Paul states "My experience while I am on MCDHH Commission was very rich, especially being as a chairperson that handled the changes of MCDHH Executive Director three times. I believe that I have not missed one meeting of MCDHH Commission in 11 years. I am more than happy to help MCDHH in any way MCDHH needs me as much as I can."

